

THE USE OF BOLTS ON SCOTTISH ROCK POLICY

After considering the views of many of Scotland's active climbers on the issue of bolts in Scottish rock climbing, the MCoS adopted the following policy as a guideline to all climbers (present, future and visiting) on bolt use in Scotland.

The MCoS and Scottish climbers acknowledge that there is a place for bolts in the future development of Scottish climbing. However, to ensure that the highly regarded ethos of, and future development of traditional climbing (involving the use of leader placed - second removed protection) is not threatened, it is felt that the use of bolts should be limited to the production of sport climbs (there should be no retrospective bolting on established climbs for protection or belay, and there should be no minimalist bolting).

The production of sport climbs with bolts is acceptable on natural rock only when all the following circumstances are satisfied:

1. On low lying cliffs, provided that such development is not against the wishes of the landowner (bolts are inappropriate on mountain cliffs and sea cliffs where a spirit of adventure should remain).
2. On routes where natural protection is absent or is inadequate for the repeated falls that such routes necessitate.
3. Where the rock is steep and provides climbs of a high order of difficulty, at the forefront of developments of the day.
4. Concerning quarried rock it is felt that any future development should be constrained only by points 2 and 4 above.

Finally, it is felt that bolts should be located to ensure minimum visual impact and should be placed using current best practices.

It is intended that these principles are not seen as simply constrictive rules, but a guide to promote the positive development of Scottish rock climbing, where sport climbing, rather than becoming the substitute for traditional climbing, grows alongside it.

Passed at 1992 AGM.